

Video

Your Video Essay

Criteria:

- 3-5 Minutes in length
- documentation required (use MLA style; credits format is acceptable)
- work needs to make a claim and support it (in other words, this work should have a thesis and support that thesis)
- what is your topic? This is a reenvisionment of your final analysis, changing the medium from print to video. An important part of this assignment is working to use the different types of tools that video offers (sound, movement, images, colors, as well as language/words) to make meaning (rhetoric).
- research (at the very least, for images, video, and audio) required

Grade will be determined by how well video essay meets criteria and how the essay is suited/developed for the video format.

[Nickleback's "If Everyone Cared"](#) is, in essence, a video essay that makes a claim and supports it. Ask yourself

- what is the claim being made?
- how is it being supported?
- how do the images/ included video support the claim?
- how does the musical "bed" (soundtrack) aid in the development and support?

Some samples from the not-so-distant past:

- [Florence G. Holmes](#) by Sarah Wineland (credits/ works cited on separate page)
 - [A Man of Mystery](#) by Alison R.
 - [The Musical Influence of World War II: How America Healed](#) by Jacqueline Marchand
 - [The Activist](#) by Kellee Beachy
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Preparation:

Never used Movie Maker before? Watch this tutorial: [How to Use Windows Movie Maker--Basic](#).

You will need to script your work. Beyond the obvious (you need to determine what claim you will make and how you will support it), you should storyboard your work. An easy way to do this is by creating a table.

To create a storyboard, simply create a two column table in a document. In the left hand side you may put an image or a description of an image. In the right hand side, place any notes or voice overs that you may include.

I'd suggest you list your purpose in a brief heading/ abstract.

So, here's my sample situation. I'm arguing that creating video essays helps to build and reinforces the skills required to compose "traditional" essays. So, how am I going to prove that?

Sample:

Abstract:

What Is Composition? argues that creating video essays strengthens students' abilities to compose traditional essays by allowing writers to visualize the structure of the essay as well as to clarify the role of the independent writer who, though making use of others' sources, still creates an original work.

(footage) development of writing...

question: include cave drawings (form of

cuneiform to word processing (perhaps video footage or slideshow)

communication/ writing?)
what is writing?
what constitutes composition?

show student at computer typing in "typical" comp mode

what does this have to do

video capture dragging/dropping files into video timeline

with this?

typing screen flips to video screen. text in screen reads

everything. (expands to fill screen)

etc. You may want to be extremely precise (as above), or you may want to mark key "signposts" in your development.

Materials

You will need to set up a separate folder in your drive for all of your video files. Trust me on this one. What goes in there?

image files saved in native format. What does this mean?

- if you were to search for images using, say, google image search...
 - click on the image file in the results.
 - Click on "see full size image."
 - Right click to "save image as" and save that file in the appropriate folder.

In theory, you could copy and paste the image into a word doc, but it would not be usable in your video.

...speaking of word docs...

- start a Works Cited doc for your video. Even better, use Zotero to keep track of your sources!
- Save it in your video folder.
- When you copy/save a file, you will need to keep track of where it came from. This WC is the place to do that.
 - Go back to where you clicked on the image file in the results.
 - Click on the link following "Below is the image in its **original context** on the page:"
 - Take down the site information using the handbook guidelines for citing a work from a website.
 - Yup. Do it. You need to cite this just as you would statistics or other data.
 - Do I need to mention that this includes video and audio as well? If the work is "republished" (for example, a Gorillaz song downloaded via iTunes), you will need to indicate both the original source and the source through which you retrieved the work

Some Helpful (Re)Sources

Programs and Addons:

[Wink \(Video screen capture freeware\)](#)

[Google Search: Free Downloadable Programs to Convert \(Use at your own discretion\)](#)

[Media Converter Firefox Add-on](#)

[Video Download Helper Firefox Add-on](#)

Content:

[YouTube](#)

[Ifilm](#)

[AltaVista Video Search](#)

Online File Converters:

[Media-Convert.com \(converts files to usable formats\)](#) (Movie Maker accepts avi, msf, and mpeg)

[Media Converter](#)

[Movavi](#)

[CatchVideo.net](#)

[Vixy](#)

Other Resources:

[Generator Blog \(Create images\)](#)

[GIMP \(Open Source image program-- like Photoshop\)](#)

[Windows Movie Maker Resources \(Transitions, sounds, and the like\)](#)

Got a plan? Got audio? Got video? Got images? Got text?

Let's Get Started

- Start Windows Movie Maker (Start->all programs->accessories->entertainment... if you can't find it there, start-->run-->browse-->c:\Program Files\movie maker\moviemk.exe)
- Ctrl-i (import into collections) -> select the folder where you have kept your video files; double click to open that folder; click once in the window where the files are ->ctrl - a to select all-> click Import
- The easiest way to work is in timeline view (Ctrl-t changes the view from timeline to storyline)
- The rest is more or less simply drag and drop.
- To add text, go to tools-> titles and credits
- To add effects, tools->video effects
- To add transitions, tools->video transitions
- I'd suggest you take about 10 minutes and just goof off. Learn how the program works. After that, learn as you go.

Important to Know:

- "Saving" in Windows Movie Maker saves the Project File-- which means it saves the organization (storyboard), but the images, video, and music are not saved in the file. What is saved is the link to the location. As long as you save the images, video, etc. on your flash drive, you can re-link the files if necessary.
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The final and most important suggestion I can make: SAVE YOUR MOVIE PROJECT OFTEN.